

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5, 6, and 9 as indicated below. Please add new claim 10 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): An electrical switching device comprising:

a housing having interrupting chambers;
a cover capable of closing the housing; and
externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing; each interrupting chamber having disposed therein an arc quenching device and a stationary switching contact for a cooperating movable switching contact,
the housing and the cover having formed therein guide and retaining elements configured to retain the arc quenching device, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate, wherein the guide and retaining elements include stack guide and retaining elements configured to guide and retain the arc splitter stack and plate guide and retaining elements configured to guide and retain the cooling plate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and first retaining elements of the cover, the inner walls being configured to support outer legs of the arc quenching device and the first retaining elements configured to further holding down the arc quenching device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover, the pocket-like second retaining elements configured to secure the arc quenching device via a frictional and/or form-locking connection, and, when the cover is mounted, the inner walls of the housing being positioned to support the arc quenching device between the inner walls.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements includes arc splitter guide and retaining elements and cooling plate guide and retaining elements, the arc splitter guide and retaining elements being adjacent to the guide and cooling plate retaining elements in a direction of the terminal contacts.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electrical switching device comprising:

- a housing having interrupting chambers and housing guide and retaining elements;
- a cover capable of closing the housing and having cover guide and retaining elements; and
- externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing;
- a stationary switching contact located in each interrupting chamber, the stationary switching contact cooperating with a movable switching contact; and
- an arc quenching device located in each interrupting chamber, the arc quenching device being either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate, the housing guide and retaining elements and the cover guide and retaining elements being configured to retain the arc quenching device and including both cooling plate guide and retaining elements configured to guide and retain the cooling plate and arc splitter stack retaining elements configured to guide and retain the arc splitter stack.

Claim 10 (new): An electrical switching device comprising:

- a housing having interrupting chambers;
- a cover capable of closing the housing; and

externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing; each interrupting chamber having disposed therein an arc quenching device and a stationary switching contact for a cooperating movable switching contact,

the housing and the cover having formed therein guide and retaining elements configured to retain the arc quenching device, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate, wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover, the pocket-like second retaining elements configured to secure the arc quenching device via a frictional and/or form-locking connection, and, when the cover is mounted, the inner walls of the housing being positioned to support the arc quenching device between the inner walls.